The McGill Daily

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Oh My My, Enough with the MAI

Rhetoric rules the debate over the agreement on foreign investment

by Alex Hill

Three hundred protestors gathered outside the Canadian Steamship Lines offices, on Saturday March 21, to speak out against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). The protest was part of a four day national campaign, sponsored by the Council of Canadians, which included thirty events aimed at drawing attention to the current negotiations regarding the MAI. Recent developments suggest that the current form of the MAI will not pass in a number of the OECD countries, but opponents and proponents of the MAI both agree that the debate over the MAI should continue.

Paul Ragan, Professor of Economics at McGill, said that, while he believes the current draft of the MAI may be dead, "the MAI will return in another form or in another forum eventually." Ragan will be debating Maude Barlow, of the CC on April 6, at McDonald Campus, over the benefits and drawbacks of an MAI. While the debate is moving further into the public forum the question arises as to the nature of the arguments presented on both sides.

Rhetoric is the language of debate on this issue and public opinion seems divided according to the preferred flavor. Whether the quixotic pursuit of creating a framework for human rights within investment appeals to your palette, or whether you prefer to grease the wheels of the multinational corporate jugernaught, this debate should suit your tastes.

On the left is the CC and their allies. Sarah Mayo of QPIRG, another group involved in the protest, expresses fears that the "MAI is too vague to be accepted... it could lead to the break down of human rights and freedoms within Canada." According to the left, public healthcare and daycare systems are directly at risk from this agreement.

Barlow has recently co-authored a book in which she criticises the MAI extensively. Chapters are included with titles such as "The assualt on human rights," "The demise of social rights" and "The war on cultural rights." The MAI agreement itself makes no inferences on these rights but instead strives to create a framework for "non discriminatory treatment for foreign investors [in member countries] according to Ragan. A perusal of the current MAI draft will allow individuals to determine for themselves how these rights may be affected but there is definitely no clause which even mentions these rights.

Ragan feels that "Barlow is trying to push [the public's] buttons by repeating that the MAI jeopardises our rights without making any arguments, in the hopes that we will eventually believe this to be true, it's pure demagoguery."

Comments by participants in last weekend's protest give evidence of the effectiveness of Barlow's approach. All of the protestors interviewed felt that they were voicing there support of human and democratic rights. When asked how the MAI will help the economic interests of all Canadians one protestor answered, "This protest isn't about economics, it's about companies who want to chain and beat workers!" Just as rhetoric is capable of separating the human condition from investment, it appears that it is capable of separating investments from economics.

While it is not clear whether the MAI will affect our rights, it is clear that neither side holds the patent on hyperbolic MAI rhetoric. John Bishop of the Ministry of Foreign affairs and trade says that we need to "protect Canadian investments in other countries" while, "balancing the needs of all countries." What type of protection we are looking for and which needs are to be balanced is not clear. Bishop was not willing to distance investment from human rights. However he doesn't think that the MAI should include a clause outlining this relationship. "The Canadian government is devoted to protect people's right abroad," commented Bishop, "but there is currently no federal initiative to pursue an agreement that couples the two." Comments such as these point to the beauty of words over action in such debates.

Ragan too had his chance to add to confusion on the issue. The pro MAI groups all feel that this agreement is not about opening Canada to foreign investment, but is about opening the rest of the world to Canadian investors.

"Higher rates of returns for Canadian companies are good for Canadians," commented Ragan. Ragan agreed that this comment may be slanted to the interests of the upper middle class. Definition of this "good," is key to the debate. Is it good for Canadians when our companies locate investments in countries with poor workers' rights policies? Under a nationalistic paradigm which limits our community to our nation boarders the answer is, according to Ragan, yes.

Ultimately the right is telling us that corporate profit is good for us all. The left believes that "we are sacrificing our rights for increased profits."

Maybe apathy is the only ethical choice in a debate that inspires spokes-persons to make the following comments: "The left takes moral victories in seeing things die," (Mayo) and "Canada wants to get into the [cheap] Bangladeshi [labour market],' (Ragan). Anyone who feels that another dose of rhetorical medicine is just what they need to form an opinion on the MAI, should make their way to the April 6 debate.

Personal is Political is Personal is...

Debate held on literature and identity

By Paul Sheridan

Should the personal be political? And what does that mean, anyway? On March 26, The McGill Debating Union and the LBGTM co-hosted a debate regarding this issue. Karin Cope, assistant professor of English, acted as guest speaker of the house for the debate.

In the debate, there were two speakers speaking to each side of the issue. Each side had one debating union member and one member of the LBGTM. The first speaker in favour of the personal being political, Mike Jancik, focused the debate on a very specific instance of identity politics currently at issue in San Francisco. He spoke in support of the school board in that city, which recently decided that 40% of the novels on the high school reading list should be works by authors from disadvantaged groups, queers being part of that group. Furthermore, all queer authors would be explicitly identified as such to the students.

He presented several reasons why this policy should be performed. Firstly, he brought forward his view on the role of literature in society. "Literature," he said, "does not play only a role as art. What societys are depicted [in the literature] are relevant to the development of the child who reads it." He went on to explain that the key to creating a more tolerant generation is to expose children to literature which includes disadvantaged groups.

The next speaker, who spoke against the personal being political, was Deniz Sarikaya, a member of LBGTM. She brought a number of new ideas into the debate. Sarikaya mentioned that by putting such a policy in place, "we are inviting a backlash" from parents and conservative groups. Jancik's concept of "the role of literature" was challenged as being damaging to the authors and their works, because "if we define these authors as gay, as black...we are putting them in pigeon holes." She further attacked Jancik's argument as reductive, asking the audience, "how do we define literature? By who the author is or what they wrote?"



photo by Eric Danek

Karin Cope, guest speaker

The second speaker in favor of the personal being political was Jawad H. Qureshi, a member of the LBGTM executive. Qureshi's speech focused on the idea, previously mentioned by Jancik, that "exposing students to gay culture...may change hostile attitudes." However, he said, no authors are imprisoned by that culture, or, has he humorously put it, "gay authors do not just necessarily write about 'gay stuff'." Qureshi challenged Sarikaya's idea of "pigeon-holing" with the point that gay authors may also be members of other disadvantaged groups. A black lesbian author, for example, speaks for a variety of cultural groups.

Danielle Martin, 1997 French debating national champion, spoke against the personal being political as defined by Jancik and Qureshi. She vigorously attacked what she called the "myth of group identity" presented by those two speakers, explaining that "when you define a person by a group [to which they belong], you limit the way you can perceive a person, and the way that person [can define] herself. A writer may not define herself primarily as a lesbian, or as a Jew, or as a feminist." Rather than impose quotas, said Martin, what is important is to "examine the systematic problems which [kept] these authors out of the [literary] canon in the first place.

Karin Cope addressed the debaters and their audience after the speakers had finished. She explained the historical background of the term "the personal should be political."

(continued on page 7)

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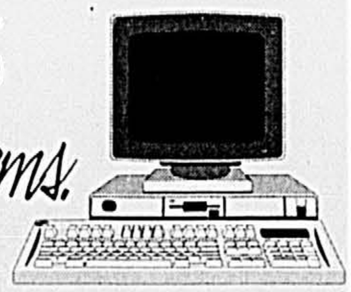
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A truly free press?

Journalism is generally understood to be a discipline of objectivity and balance. The reporter is usually charged with reporting the facts. When compiling a piece of investigative journalism, one is allowed to interpret facts as he or she sees them. Recently, I was assigned the task of reporting on the Fraser Institute Youth Seminars held early in March for the McGill Daily.

I was told by my editor to report "critically" on the Institute. I interpreted this to mean to look at the institute in an analytical way and not to take everything they say at face value. When I attended the Seminar, I discovered something about the institute. Although I do not agree with some of their ideas on Medicare or unionization, I was struck by how sincere these people were. They believed in justice, equality and the value of choice. They, however, tended to see the market as a mechanism as the means to these lofty goals. I had stated in my article that I opposed certain ideas of the Institute. I consider myself a liberal. Generally, I believe that the market is the most efficient means to generate wealth and expand opportunity and that the market should be subordinated to the Public Interest through regulation.

I was not conscious of the fact that *The Daily* was a soapbox for the Left. When I told my editor about my angle, he responded negatively, scolding me for my ideas not being 'critical enough.' I should have said that they were a 'bad organization' with 'bad ideas.' I think this is childish and completely absurd. No journalist appreciates being told how to interpret an event. I feel I was critical in my own way. I said that it was time to go beyond petty left-right wing dichotomies and evaluate policies based on how they bring about justice, etc... To argue that a private element in our health care system is wrong because it's not leftist is fundamentally wrong. We should look to privatisation as bad because it doesn't bring about justice for all. My article challenged the reader to look beyond the 'leftist consensus' we have in this country.

I wonder if the vast majority of McGill students are conscious of the fact that the Daily is a left-wing soapbox and not a representative, objective newspaper. You probably thought that the reporters just happen to be all leftists. No, the reason is that their 'statement of principles' defines 'critical' as being necessarily Leftist-environmentalist-politically correct. They are not critical, they are leftist. When was the last time you read an article on the bad effects of unionisation on our economy or a critical piece on the ill effects of excessive taxes on job creation. The thing that upsets me is that *The Daily* can actually get away with being student subsidised, calling itself the MCGILL daily and actually operate its offices in our school. It doesn't represent the diverse voices of our university community, it represents the voice of the Left. It doesn't speak for all students, therefore it shouldn't have facilities at this university until it amends its 'statement of principles' to better reflect a more objective newspaper, not left-wing rhetoric. I support the left publicising its views. However, a university newspaper is not the vehicle for that dissemination. A newspaper that bears our name should represent all our views. Change *The Daily* to *The Daily Worker* or something.

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Crisis of Ideology

The decay of the Canadian Left

by Jeff Webber

Jean Charest's new political career is salt upon the festering wound that is ideology in Canadian politics today. Opportunistic leaders are playing to the tune of personal advancement despite any contradictions of belief that they supposedly held when initially elected. Charest pleads his innocence, emphasizing the fundamental difference between the provincial Liberal party and the federal. He inisists that that his abhorrence of Liberal policy as federal leader of the Conservative party was authentic.

I think the only thing that is becoming salient is the fact that there is essentially no difference between the federalist parties of Canada. The Liberals, the NDP, and the Conservatives although spouting much evil rhetoric towards each other's camps, in practice, seem to conform to an increasingly synonymous platform. The only real option aside from this reeking threesome seems to be the Reform party who lie somewhat outside this politics of cohesion.

So voters can take heart that real choice does exist! We have the option of abandoning the consensus of painful fiscal austerity and submission to global economics; our option is to embrace the fiscal insanity, racist heroism, truly American patriarchy, and all encompassing homophobia that Reform holds so dear. So how come I feel disheartened?

The mainstream press applauds the way in which parties have united. They celebrate the teary-eyed speeches of superficial flakes such as Jean Charest and B.C. premier Glenn Clark. Awards like the front page go to sobbing old people (the Conservative caucus) wishing the 'federalist savior' Jean Charest adieu, at a farewell party, or Shepherd Manning waving the Canadian flag in the House of Commons along with the rest of his backwards sheep. In B.C. we hear of nothing but the flagging, decaying, eroding, abysmal (the list goes on) economy under the helm of premier Glenn Clark. Well, Clark has taken his cue.

Requesting advice from Vancouver billionaire Jimmy Pattison on how to kick start the economy is a concrete beginning to the strict adherence to ideology to which the NDP government in B.C. seem indefatigable dedicated. Note that in the Globe And Mail's pejorative reporting on B.C.'s economy they divided their time equally between delineating the horrors of supposed socialism and gawking at Joy MacPhail's, the party's new Minister of Finance, attire.

Sure *SHE* has her Masters degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, but that *WOMAN* wears those crazy leather pants!

The mainstream press hasn't had much to say on how the collapse of the Asian Tigers may have impacted negatively on B.C.'s economy. Although Glenn Clark has proposed cutting the taxes for the wealthiest people of the province (his budget comes out today), has proposed cutting taxes on big business to make B.C. investment friendly, has participated in the advancement of the exploitative Team Canada missions to Asia and Latin America -like a good Liberal soldier, yet he is still portrayed as the remnants of Lefty Canada that needs finishing off.

So we're in somewhat of an alarming predicament in contemporary Canadian politics. Ideology is dead. Parties mean less than ever. Jean Charest, announcing last Thursday his decision to lead the Québec Liberals, has already commenced personal attacks on Lucien Bouchard, without offering any feasible policies for the direction of Québec.

I guess the reason that people are not wary of Charest's possible impact on Québec's economy - him being a former crony of the lovable Brain Mulroney- is one of two things. Either people have been swept in to the federalist fervor of 'oh our federalist savior can do no wrong'; or possibly after experiencing the pain of fiscal austerity under Chétien's federal leadership, we have become immune to the prospects of further infliction.

One thing I am not doing in reflecting upon the deterioration of ideology in Canadian politics at the present time is romanticizing a time of old when everyone bathed in the glory of social justice and the attributes of real belief. I am simply pointing out that the state of ideology is beached whale, and that the consensus in this country is moving further and further to the Right. Perhaps if voters had a choice beyond right-wing idiocy and right-wing extremism, a more balanced and diverse discourse could transpire. Unfortunately, with the move of Charest to the Québec Liberals, and the subsequent possibility of an accentuated solidarity among the federal right, I do not see bright prospects in Canada's immediate future.

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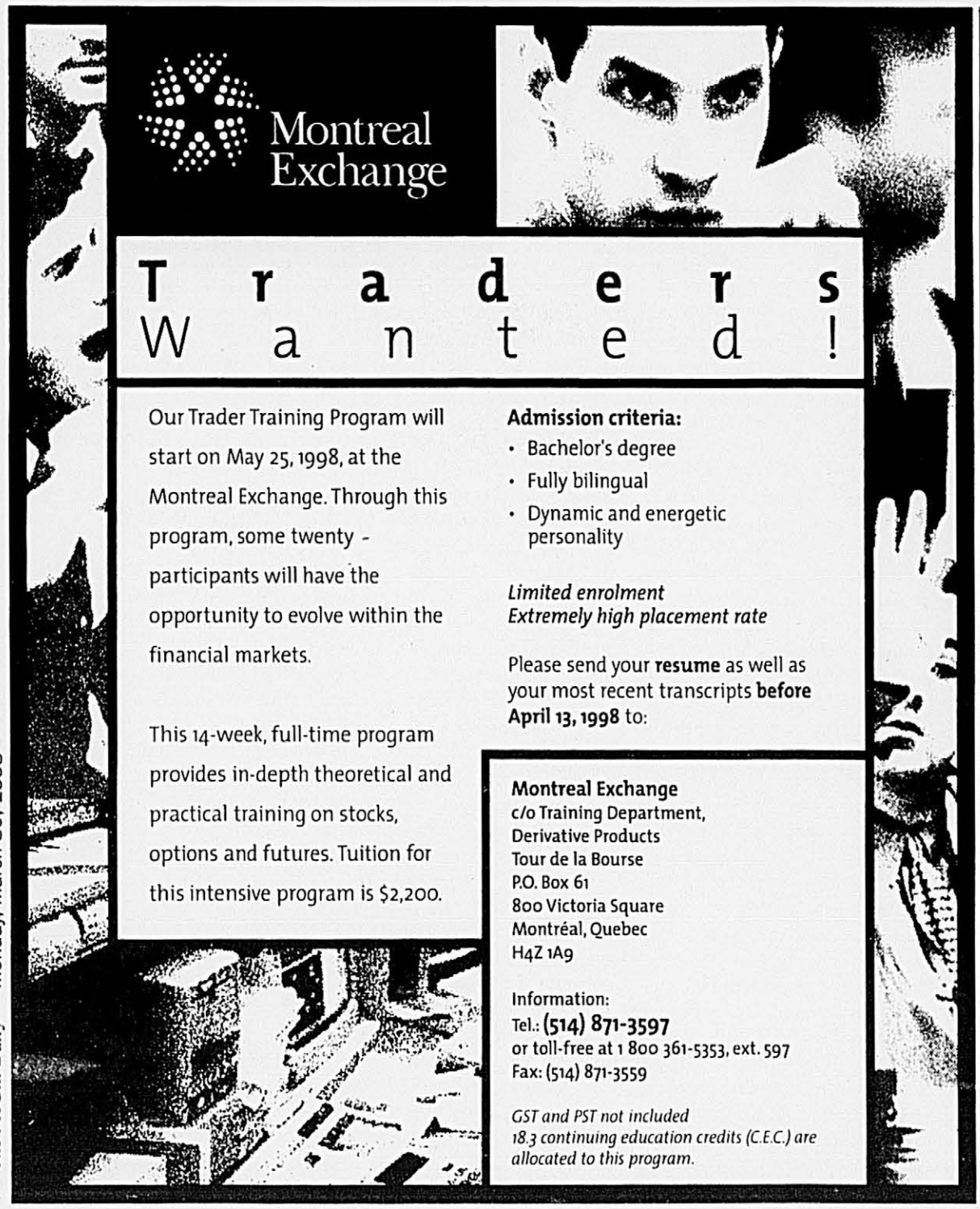
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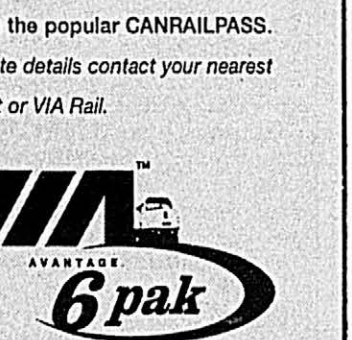
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Sexual assault conference to centre on unique McGill initiative

BY IDELLA STURINO

Source: Quebec Bureau

MONTREAL (CUP) – Anyone who takes a quick peak into the small office of McGill University's sexual assault centre might not notice anything unusual about it. Its walls are adorned with public awareness posters and notices to volunteers, and the bookshelves are full of reference guides and self-help books for survivors of sexual abuse. A handful of women chat in a corner while eating their lunch, while another answers the phone.

But there is something unusual going on here: this is the only Canadian university sexual assault centre run completely by and for students, free of all administrative ties. It is staffed by students and financed by McGill's student union.

The fact that the centre is entirely student-run is easily forgotten in light of its apparent efficiency and the confidence exuded by its trained volunteers, who provide services ranging from a telephone help-line to support groups for victims of abuse.

Now, after six years of growing and earning a name for itself at McGill and in Montreal, the centre is ready to offer itself up as a model for similar initiatives across the country as it plays host to over 20 representatives of campus sexual assault centres and university administrations from across Canada. The two-day conference, which will take place in Montreal March 27-28, will provide practical workshops and discussion groups on how to run a student sexual assault facility, informed by the McGill centre's experience.

Joanne Stuart, the conference's organizer, says the centre decided to put on the conference because it feels its operating model may be useful for others.

"[The centre] as an organization was consolidated enough to say to people, This is what works and this is what you can try," she said. "It shows a bit of self-confidence on our part, I think."

At least one campus sexual assault centre has already turned to the McGill model for guidance. York University's sexual assault and survivor support-line got its start three years ago thanks to the McGill centre, says co-ordinator Cindy Ramkripal.

Like the McGill centre, the York sexual assault service is also student-run, but is not completely independent of the university.

Christina Gravely, who volunteers with the McGill centre volunteer and serves on its executive committee, says being a student-run organization has many advantages.

"Because we're on the McGill campus and because we're students, we have our ear to the ground in terms of what's going on and what students may need," she said, adding that McGill students may find it easier to approach the centre because its volunteers are also students.

Gravely adds that being autonomous from the administration allows for a bolder political stance than might otherwise be possible. She points to the centre's decision-making structure as one example. It operates on a collective, consensual basis with a pro-feminist, pro-survivor mandate, which Gravely says is not necessarily the status quo for sexual assault centres.

"[The centre] is incredibly progressive and very, very exceptional," she explained.

But some medical professionals say while McGill's sexual assault centre has many positive points, it may not be the most desirable model.

Pierre Tellier, director of McGill,s health services, says although the centre has come a long way – especially in the training of its volunteers – its independence may actually be a detriment to providing an efficientservice.

"Students tend to be a little suspicious of the administration, and...shouldn't be. It would be much more efficient if we worked together," he said.

He point to McGill Nightline, a general help-line run by students with input from university professionals, as an example of a successful joint venture between students and the administration. Stuart concedes the McGill model is not necessarily a sure fit for everyone. A number of significant challenges face student-run centres.

There is a high volunteer turnover rate, and in the formative stages of such a facility, volunteers can expect to put in up to 70 hour weeks to get things up and running. And on campuses where the silence surrounding sexual assault hasn't yet been broken, a new sexual assault centre may be met with hostility, adds Gravely.

The conference will therefore use the McGill centre's model as a basis for discussion, Stuart says, adding that the facility's aims are not prescriptive.

"We don't have all the answers," she said.

But while one aim of the conference will be to demonstrate an original, working student model for campus sexual assault centres, the other is to raise awareness about sexual assault, which many silently suffer through.

"Sexual assault is not going away. As a service we are so attuned to that. It's so evident that it's a problem that it has to be addressed in a public sphere," Stuart said. The conference will include a panel discussion by local women activists about the social contexts of violence against women, followed by an address by respected journalist and author Laura Robinson on the rape culture in

Canada's national sport.

Overall, response to the conference has been positive and Stuart says she hopes that if its is a success, it could become a bi-annual event.

For now, though, she has her sights set on this weekend.

"The energy I hope to generate is going to be huge."

McGill | Concordia UNIVERSITY

INCOME TAX WORKSHOPS FOR McGILL & CONCORDIA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

REVENUE QUEBEC

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 24th, 1998
TIME: 9:30 -12:30
PLACE: McGill University, Student Union Bldg., Rm 107/108
3480 McTavish Street

REVENUE CANADA

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1998
TIME: 1:30 - 4:30
PLACE: Concordia University, Henry F. Hall Building, Rm H620
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West

The focus of these workshops is to assist you on how to fill out each form. We will be looking at the following:

- How to calculate your taxable income.
- What child care expenses can you claim?
- How do you determine your residency status for income tax purposes (The 183 day rule)?
- What are tax credits?
- Do you qualify for the Goods and Services Tax (G.S.T.) Rebate?
- Or any other question...

Tax forms will be available for each workshop.

Organized by:
McGill University International Student Adviser's Office
3637 Peel Street, Room 200, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1X1
Telephone: (514) 398-6015

Department of English Prizes and Awards

- The **KAY MACIVER MEMORIAL PRIZE**, worth $275, for the best English essay by an undergraduate on a subject in the field of English Canadian or French Canadian literature, to be nominated by instructors.

Creative Writing

- The **MONA ADILMAN PRIZE IN POETRY**, worth $650—or $325 for two students, is open to **undergraduate or graduate students** registered in the **Faculty of Arts** for the best poem or group of poems relating to ecological or environmental concerns.
- The **CLARK LEWIS MEMORIAL PRIZE**, worth $250, is open to **major or honours students** in the **Department of English**. The prize is awarded annually or from time to time for original plays staged in the course of the academic year.
- The **CHESTER MACNAGHTEN PRIZES IN CREATIVE WRITING** (two prizes, one of $500 and another of $350) are open to **undergraduate students of the university** for the best piece of creative writing in English, i.e. a story, a play, a poem, an essay, etc. Printed compositions are ineligible if they have been published before April 15, 1998.
- The **PETERSON MEMORIAL PRIZE**, worth $1,500, is open to **undergraduate or graduate students registered in a degree program** in the **Department of English**.
- The **LIONEL SHAPIRO AWARDS FOR CREATIVE WRITING**, three prizes of $1,000 each, to be distributed if possible among the genres of poetry, fiction, screen writing and playwrighting. Each prize to be awarded on the recommendation of the Department of English to students in the **final year of the B.A. course** who have demonstrated outstanding talent. (A note from your academic adviser verifying you will have completed your program requirements and the minimum credits required by the Faculty of Arts (by April 1998) MUST accompany your submission.)

These competitions are restricted to students who have not previously won the First Prize.

Forms to be completed (for the creative writing prizes and awards) are available in the Department of English General Office, Arts 155. Submissions must be in duplicate.

Deadline: Friday, April 17, 1998

Wired world has des

on ivory tower

Industry presses

by Sarah Schmidt

Toronto (CUP) – Gone are the days when academics could hide away in their dusty alcoves engaged in the lofty pursuit of knowledge. Rather, the time has come for the ivory tower to get with the program. Or so says Canada's high tech industry spearheaded by information age guru Northern Telecom.

Ever since corporate Canada's biggest spender on research and development released its controversial report in the new year calling on universities in Ontario and the rest of Canada to produce more graduates ready for the high-tech challenge, there has been a growing buzz in the air about academia's role in the wired global economy.

Few take issue with the general problem outlined in the Nortel report: the mismatch between the supply of high tech graduates and the industry's demand. A few eyebrows were raised, however, when the head honcho of a high tech corporation recently described the conundrum.

"I know it's trite and I know it's a bit overstated, but the reality is that our universities are not breeding sufficient computer and high tech and electronics graduates to satisfy the demands of industry," Ron Osborne, then-president of Bell Canada, told a crowd at the University of Toronto last month.

But if the connotation of 'breeding' isn't irksome to some, the underlying assumptions (the utility of a liberal arts education) and the possible effects (industry's use of the public system for its own private gain) may very well be.

Nortel's helping hand

Given the urgent need for more engineers and computer scientists, Nortel has come up with a three point-plan to fill some of the 4,000 new jobs it will have for recent graduates in the next five years. But before institutions re-jig their enrollment numbers in favour of the high-tech professional programs, Nortel knows incentives must be in place. Enter disproportionately higher tuition fees for these programs. Then introduce a government funding model that means more cash to schools that expand their high tech programs.

The current model just won't work, writes Nortel. "This imbalance amounts to a financial disincentive for universities to increase engineering enrollment."

Nortel's on-site help rounds out the plan: its own staff can be adjunct professors; its own labs can double as university training grounds; and Nortel dollars can finance specific projects in university labs. In fact, this integration is already well underway, pointed out Nortel president and chief executive officer John Roth to a group of McGill alumni in Ottawa last November.

> "Welcome to the world of reality."

"The university is the source of our continuous renewal," he said, referring to the 200 Nortel-supported research projects in place at Canadian universities as of 1996; the more than 10 professors already spending their sabbatical in Nortel labs every year; and the recently initiated 'reverse sabbatical' program where Nortel people participate insecondments as faculty professors for up to two years.

"From primary to post-graduate levels, science and technology have to be the key focuses of our education curriculum," Roth said.

Other big shots in the wired world add their own words of wisdom. Not only do graduates need to be well versed on the high-tech side, they need to be able to thrive in the business world, says Marie-Claude Messier, director of human resources for Bell Emergis, a company which hired 200 new employees in the information technology area last year and expects to hire another 45 this year. "That's the hook for us if the business side was a bit more developed with more complimentary courses," she said.

Paul Swinwood, president of the Ottawa-based Software Human Resources Council, set up to increase the supply of software workers for the high-tech industry, says institutions need to make even more drastic changes than curriculum overhaul.

"You could have one or two schools become the crème de la crème of the humanities," he said. To make sure students elsewhere get their dose of liberal arts, a roving humanities professor could visit nearby campuses, spending one day a week at each school. "Welcome to the world of reality."

At the moment, not everything is the high tech way. While the number of graduates with bachelor degrees in computer science at Canadian universities rose to 2,949 in 1995 from 2,194 in 1990, the number of degrees handed out in electrical engineering has fallen to 1,837 from 1,902.

At the same time, the number of graduates in the fine and applied arts has risen to 534 from 452, social sciences is up to 10,587 from 9,820 and the humanities has increased to 3,007 from 2,583.

Warped world vision

Scenarios of curriculum overhaul and the mingling of academic priorities leave some academics shuddering at the thought of what universities, and society, might look like after this high-tech revolution inside the ivory tower. Put aside the question of industry-driven curriculum development and the problems that have already arisen with joint research ventures with industry for now.

Think about the more basic philosophical problems with the high-tech proposition. Bill Bruneau, a historian at the University of British Columbia and president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says. "It's just a ridiculous rant. It's rare for them to put it down where we can actually see it," Bruneau said after reading the Nortel document, pointing to the opening line as particularly revealing.

"Ontario's future depends on the availability of a highly qualified and competitive workforce, with an emphasis on scientific and technical talent to respond to the demands of the information society," it reads.

Not so, says the historian. "If you want to be competitive in the world, I can tell what you need," Bruneau said, citing international history, political theory, economics and languages. "The very words are inconsistent with what they say. The country relies on effective social security, health insurance, public education and pensions so people are free to be productive." But what's worse, Bruneau adds, is the complete disregard for the need to strike a balance between the practical, the humane and the civil. And it is only through the fine arts, the social sciences and humanities that you get the humane and civil covered. "You don't get it from information technology. What kind of life do they want for us? It's an empty life."

But it's certainly one to which some politicians are drawn, particularly those like Ontario Premier Mike Harris who are closely linked to industry's wish lists. Even before Nortel unveiled its plans for universities, Harris seemed on board last November when his speech writers had him publicly questioning the relevancy of subjects like geography and sociology.

And just weeks before the Nortel launch, finance minister Ernie Eves announced that tuition fees for professional programs would be deregulated next September. But the hike must be accompanied with more high-tech spaces.

"[W]ithin this new tuition policy framework, the government will require institutions that increase fees to help address shortages in scientific and technical programs where the demand from prospective students and employers greatly exceeds the places available," Eves announced last December.

The Ontario ministry of education followed up with an informal survey after Nortel released its document to see how things were progressing, ministry spokesperson Danielle Gauvin said. She reported that at least seven schools are expecting to expand in these high-tech areas next year. "We've put incentives in place. We're taking it seriously and we've started to address it."

Flakey arts lose out

But with finite funds to go around, certain disciplines will be adversely hit amidst this info tech frenzy, Peter Emberly, director of the college of the humanities program at Carleton University, a four year liberal arts program, says.

"No [university] president is going to say that, but it's an inevitable consequence. If you build up this area, it's going to have to come from shifting resources from the social sciences. You start to see like my own university has done."

Last December, Carleton's Senate decided to gut its language school by shutting down its undergraduate programs in Classics, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and comparative literary studies, as well as its master's programs in German and Spanish languages. And the physics department was told to bring a detailed proposal in applied physics to the next meeting.

Next year, Carleton is ushering in a new bachelor of engineering in communications engineering – the first of its kind in North America. "Definitely, we're expanding programs," a registrar assistant in the engineering faculty said. "Let's face it. This is where the jobs are."

Still, building up the applied sciences doesn't necessarily mean arts programs will lose out, according to Herb O'Heron, senior analyst for the research and policy analysis division of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. "Does it mean that would mean fewer students in social sciences? We don't know that. They're not saying take money out of other areas."

The University of Ottawa, located in the heart of Canada's version of Silicon Valley, is also experiencing a targeted boom similar to Carleton's. When the School of Information Technology and Engineering was created last year after financial and in-kind gifts from Nortel, Mitel Corporation, Bell Canada and SHL Systemhouse Canada, the university announced that enrollment in the info tech field would increase by 60 per cent by the year 2000. This includes 860 new spots in software and systems engineering.

Plus, says O'Heron, it's only good business to make your supply of goods bigger. "In any labour market, management will certainly try to have an oversupply, because that will reduce their costs."

But academics in these sexy disciplines say their boom won't result in others' bust.

signs

for a downsized human(ities)

"The case that needs to be made is an increased funding without damaging the rest of the university. It certainly should be possible, Safwat Zaky, chair of electrical and computer engineering at U of T, said. There, enrollment in computer engineering doubled to 160 from 80 just over the past year.

But that's an impossible feat, Bruneau says. "With this language about consumption and production and jobs and money, I translate that into narrow fields of technological inquiry. What kind of education do you need if you see the world in this kind of way? It makes it very easy to take money away from arts and social science."

Outside intruders

But it can be even more subtle than this, say the social science and humanities skeptics. A quick read between the lines of the Nortel report reveals how this shift in academic priorities is handed down from external bodies - an aggressive industry and an obliging government.

When Nortel calls for a revamping of the funding formula, Bruneau says, what the corporation is really telling the government to do is use the money envelope to dissuade schools from pumping up particular 'non-productive' programs in this new global age of info technology.

"In the short term, [Ontario's] formula for appropriating funds needs to be re-evaluated and redefined to reflect the realities of the 1990s," Nortel writes.

In education circles, the new buzz words for this financing model are performance indicators, where government money is dispensed according to measurable outputs.

This is where the Nortel vision comes full circle, Emberly says. "Performance indicators are very readily applicable to engineering and the sciences. But they're absolutely inappropriate to the social sciences and humanities. They're measurable outputs. You totally skew the measures."

And this is where the ironies of the Nortel argument resonate the loudest, adds Bruneau. "This sounds very much to be the old Soviet economy, the command economy from the centre. What amuses me is they talk about small government." But what's worse, says Bruneau, is it undermines social sciences as well as local autonomy.

"This is a direct attack on the capacity of the university in their discretion to interpret their mandates at the local level. It gives discretion to civil servants in Queen's Park. It amazes me business people are saying this."

Outside intruders push

But this is nothing new. In 1987, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association released its own scholastic brief entitled 'The Importance of Post-Secondary Education: Keeping Canada Competitive.' It states that the university system must "shed low-yield baggage from the past" and "focus on high -yield activity and performance."

> Harris seemed on board last November when his speech writers had him publicly questioning the relevancy of subjects like geography and sociology.

Seven years later, then York University president Susan Mann picked up on this theme when she recommended to her board of governors that "to specialize in the humanities, the social sciences or the fine arts means limiting options for incoming students and limiting the potential for dollars and prestige which... accompany the scientific, technological and medical fields.

Steven Wilson, the graduate caucus rep of the Canadian Federation of Students at the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's November roundtable called 'Meeting the Needs of the Next Generation of University Researchers: Making a Career in Industry,' says it's these kind of statements uttered by some high-tech industry types at the rendez-vous that worry him. Wilson says industry's call on institutions to bridge the gap between supply and demand isn't necessarily a problem. You can't blame them, says the wildlife biology Ph.D. candidate, for wanting to fill their vacant job openings. "When I open the newspaper looking for a job, it's clear what skills they're after."

Reflecting on his own faculty, Wilson adds, "They can't get enough students to fill the spots. Should the faculty of agriculture be begging for students while the faculty of engineering turns students away? I have a hard time defending that."

But they're not just talking about readjusting the numbers to help redress the imbalance. "The flag goes up because the universities are going to do whatever they can to attract the private money and that's not how the universities should be making decisions.

"As long as the focus remains on the creation and dissemination of knowledge rather than the attraction of capital, the pursuit of knowledge instead of dollars," said Wilson. "The creation of knowledge must remain in the public good, but often industry reps are talking about direct incursion into academia. This is a massive change in the way universities are run."

Public schools for private gain

Nortel's External Research Program, set up so the corporation nurtures relationships between its technical experts and university faculty and students through swap programs and research deals, leaves some uneasy.

Using profiles like the year-old Nortel Institute for Telecommunications at U of T in its recent publication as "an example of a leadership initiative that is a model for industry" sounds off even more alarm bells. York University law professor David Vaver, who specializes in intellectual property rights, says the broad definition of Nortel's rights to intellectual property in the agreement could be a problem in many scenarios. And upon reviewing the confidential details of the $8-million agreement, a private sector intellectual property lawyer concluded that the broad expanse of control over research and inventions was worth questioning.

The agreement, which also involved the creation of two matching fund chairs and three junior tenure-stream positions, also specifies that these positions will be "conducted in consultation with Nortel," as well as in accordance with the university's policy on academic appointments.

But U of T's chair of electrical and computer engineering says there is nothing to worry about. In fact, the contract is typical. "There is nothing different from this agreement from any previous agreement. It's not something any of us think is a problem. It's a usual contract. We follow more or less the same template."

There is nothing unusual about the secrecy, either, he says. "Intellectual property is something that affects the corporation's competitive position. So they don't want that to be public and the university has always respected that and set it up as confidential. It's not a public document."

The same holds true across the country. When asked for the details of Nortel's contributions to the new engineering program at the University of Ottawa, the assistant director of contracts, Giles Morier, had to decline. "The contracts themselves are between the university and the sponsor and they govern that particular project," Morier said. "It's of commercial interest to the company so we can't release that."

But when U of O inaugurated its Bell Canada Advanced Research Laboratory just last month, the academic heading up the new project to develop high speed telecommunication transmission technology didn't assuage any concerns.

"We aren't working for Bell. We are doing research for Bell. No, we are not doing research for Bell. We're doing it for the good of science," Tet Yeap said.

A sweet deal

The problem is that industry reaps the benefits at a very low cost which can only be gleaned when contracts are leaked. Meanwhile, students pay increasingly high fees while Nortel signs contracts which could mean millions of dollars in intellectual property dividends.

"Nortel will profit, but they want students to pay the fees," Bruneau said. "You pay, we'll consume."

personal is political

continued from page 1

To the best of her knowledge, it was first used, in a slightly different form, by Mao, then adopted in North America by women in the new left movement in during the late 1960's and early 1970's. The term was used to represent the idea that "if the women in a [new left] organization only serve coffee, that is not a private sphere issue, that is a political issue." Regarding the issue brought forward by Jancik and Qureshi, Cope reminded the audience that personal issues brought up in a novel may be politically salient to an author's society, but not at all to people outside of that context. She also warned the audience to be careful about "what parts of the personal one wants to politicize."

All hailed the debate as a success. Darrell Tan, President of the LBGTM, afterwards stated that while "this was not necessarily the best example of queer issues, it was a good thing to do to bring exposure to these issues."

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To: Members of the McGill Community

The term of Mrs. Gretta Chambers' appointment as Chancellor of McGill University will end on April 30, 1999. An Ad Hoc Committee to Advise on the Nomination of a Chancellor will be struck.

I write on behalf of the Ad Hoc Cornmittee to invite your advice and opinion in this matter.

Please forward any comments you may have about the chancellorship as well as any nominations for the position not later than August 31, 1998 to:

Victoria Lees
Secretary-General
McGill University
Room 608, James Administration Building
845 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal H3A 2T5

Telephone: (514) 398-3948
Fax: (514) 398-4758

Replies will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Yours faithfully,

Richard W. Pound
Chair of the Board of Governors
and Chair, Ad Hoc Committee to Advise
on the Nomination of a Chancellor

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Denis Larouche
COMPTABLE AGRÉÉ

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tho the Directors of
QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MC GILL INC.

I have audited the balance sheet of QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MC GILL INC. as at August 31, 1997 and the statement of revenue and expenses and surplus for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at August 31, 1997 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Denis Larouche
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

December 12, 1997

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH
GROUP - MC GILL INC.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND SURPLUS

Year ended August 31

	1997 $	1996 $
REVENUE		
Students'fees	122 533	123 909
Grants	85 119	-
Other revenue	233	609
	207 885	124 518
EXPENSES		
Amortization - notes 1 and 3	2 308	3 228
Insurance	446	976
Late fees paid	-	416
Project costs - note 4	125 508	37 960
Election	2 000	2 150
Interest and bank charges	348	424
General office expenses	3 913	4 230
Bookkeeping and audit fees	1 521	930
Discretionary fund	4 148	5 988
Rent	15 905	15 585
Publicity	3 310	3 970
Retreats and meetings	2 081	2 593
Salaries and benefits	42 858	47 578
Telephone	2 043	2 436
Miscellaneous	355	556
	206 744	129 020
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	1 141	(4 502)
SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	18 153	22 655
SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	19 294	18 153

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH
GROUP - MC GILL INC.

BALANCE SHEET

As at August 31

	1997 $	1996 $
A S S E T S		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	11 371	16 909
Accounts receivable	12 234	7 527
Prepaid expenses	1 055	1 603
	24 660	26 039
FIXED ASSETS - notes 1 and 3	5 384	7 494
	30 044	33 533
L I A B I L I T I E S		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	10 198	13 931
Due to Mc Gill University	552	1 449
	10 750	15 380
S U R P L U S		
SURPLUS - page 2	19 294	18 153
	30 044	33 533

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Directors

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH
GROUP - MC GILL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

August 31, 1997

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) FIXED ASSETS

Amortization of fixed assets is calculated on the declining balance method as a fixed-pourcentage:

- Computer software & equipment 30%

b) STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

A statement of changes in financial position has not been presented as it would not provide any additional meaningful information.

2. JURIDICTIONAL STATUTE AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

The Compagny is incorporated under the Quebec Compagnies Act (Part III) since February 15, 1989.

The Company is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting and conducting research, educating the public based on that research, and undertaking appropriate action, all in an effort to develop effective citizenship skills in students and the general population, and work in the public interest for social change in Quebec.

3. FIXED ASSETS

	Beginning of year $	Increase $	End of year $
COST			
Computer software & equipment	26 143	198	26 341
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION			
Computer software & equipment	18 649	2 308	20 957
NET BOOK VALUE	7 494		5 384

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH
GROUP - MC GILL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

August 31, 1997

4. PROJECT COSTS	1996 $	1995 $
Acces	65 205	-
Probe	9 342	330
Summer Stipends	9 078	8 526
Nyce	8 409	-
Prostitution conference	7 527	3 903
Wave	5 151	498
Perspective	4 841	3 962
Internship program	4 283	-
Nigeria action network	3 195	-
Earth Save	3 092	694
Un juste cafe	1 853	-
Resource centre	1 570	1 678
Women of colour collective	1 366	1 931
Campus and community waste management	538	140
Loaf (Food Coop)	34	224
Miscellaneous	24	212
School schmool	-	8 114
Action rebuts	-	5 000
Aseed	-	1 006
Ecowatt	-	918
Cafe co-op	-	824
	125 508	37 960

5. AGREEMENT

The compagny shall pay an annual rent totalling 15 360$ for the first year. Thereafter, the rent shall increase on the basis of the cost of living index as established by Statistics Canada, using each previous year as the base year. The term is five (5) years ending at november 1999.

QPIRG

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill

students working for social and environmental change

Annual General Meeting

At this meeting, the Board will present its financial statements and annual report for the previous year. Following this, there will be a discussion on QPIRG's activities this past year. Working group volunteers, participants in QPIRG's internship program, and any other interested people are invited to take part in this discussion, and suggest improvements for next year. This will also be an opportunity to meet the members of the new Board. For more information, please call us at 398-7432.

Tuesday March 31st , 5:30pm
in room 425 of the Shatner Building
(3480 McTavish)

Refreshments will be served!

Year In Review

September

CRC takes precautions with blood drive

With the Canadian Red Cross' blood drive returning to McGill this year, *The Daily* reported that the CRC took some precautionary measures this year to avoid the controversy which arose last year, when the CRC canceled the blood drive. At that time, then SSMU president Chris Carter sent a press release to media outlets in Montréal proclaiming that he, an openly gay man, would attempt to give blood.

This year the CRC sent a letter to both the SSMU executives and Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays and Transgendered students of McGill asking for 'cooperation' with the blood drive this year.

At issue was the nature of the questionnaire, which was deemed to be discriminatory by the coordinators of LBGTM.

The Daily quoted LBGTM's political coordinator Lisa Nevens as saying, "I was pretty shocked that the CRC had the nerve to send the letter."

Would you like coffee with that textbook

McGill's senate was highlighted during the discussion over the proposed outsourcing of McGill's bookstore to the megachain Chapters. The controversy arose after VP Administration Phyllis Heaphy created a second committee to look into the proposed outsourcing of the bookstore. The initial committee's conclusion was that anything an outside company could do, the bookstore could do just as well by itself.But Heaphy, intent on implementing the Chapters outsourcing, created a second committee to look into the issue.

An alternative to mass consumption

In response to the annual campusfest feeding frenzy of mass consumption, the QPIRG groups EarthSave, PROBE and A Just Coffee.

"The point was not profit, but to show people that there are responsible choices that can be made," said Julia Baum, coordinator of Earthsave Montréal.

The ethical shopping fair provided an alternative to campusfest where sponsors such as Hagan Daas, Calvin Klein and Pringles competed for students attention.

October

NDP leader comes to Montréal

A small crowd was at Concordia's Hall building to hear the leader of the Federal NDP, Alexa McDounough, speak about the future of the NDP. In her speech, McDounough cited the election of a labour government in the U.K. and the return of the Social Democrats to power in France as reasons for feeling optimistic about the future of the NDP in Canada.

She also spoke on the dangers of globalisation and the future of democracy in Canada.

For McDounough, the biggest threat to democracy is "the awesome power of the beneficiaries of the current economic order to protect their unprecedented privileges against the slightest reduction in their status."

SSMU says 'No' to plan G

With councilors saying that supporting Plan-G would be the same as supporting a Marxist revolution, the SSMU voted unanimously against the November 3rd action of civil disobedience.

The occupation was composed of a coalition of different activist groups planning to occupy the government office Complex G, in Québec City.

Sam Kramer, of the clubs representatives to SSMU, said that if they supported the plan, "We would face mockery from people who truly know the facts about how the world works."

However, there were some opposing voices, Mario Nigro, a law councilor, argued, "We don't do enough action here. We should do it, even though some of us have reservations."

November

Bush awarded honorary degree by the University of Toronto

The Daily reported on the decision of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto to award an honourary degree to former United States President George Bush.

Bush has been criticised for his actions as US president and director of the CIA. Among other things, people are critical of his role in the Iran-Contra arms scandal and in operation desert storm.

When Bush spoke at Toronto a procession of faculty rose in protest of the awarding of the degree.

Bush himself joked about the protest in his speech.

"It doesn't bother me one single bit," he said. "Barbara walked out on me when I read her this speech last night."

SSMU hires $25 000 worth of "guidance"

The decision by SSMU to hire KPMG, an outside organisation to provide consulting to the Student's Society, raised concern among some councilors.

Law Councilor Marie Nigro was quoted in *The Daily* as saying: "It worries me that the SSMU is spending money on these types of pet projects."

However, Duncan Reid, the VP Finance of SSMU, defended the decision saying that the restructuring was motivated by a desire to "forge a long-term to help everyone see how they fit into the SSMU."

Students to get their daycare

A referendum asking if students would be willing to contribute money towards the creation of a student daycare received a strong majority of the student's vote. SSMU President Tara Newell, who had campaigned on creating a daycare for students, said that, "all the pieces of the puzzle are starting to fit together."

However, once the referendum has passed, there are still several steps that must be made before the daycare is realized. The daycare would need both space and licensing from the government.

January

Ice Storm of the century

The Ice Storm of the century caused power failures around the province and classes to be canceled at McGill for over a week. In a comment published in *The Daily* Brian Sarwer-Foner asked if we have learned anything about the environment from the ice storm. Sarwer-Foner wrote that we must consider the havoc wrought by our continual disrespect for our environment.

Shapiro gives us his new 'vision'

The Daily also reported that McGill's Principal Shapiro offered 'alternative futures' for McGill in a new report. Shapiro's report presented four different options.

Shapiro rejected the work of the students and faculty who were part of McGill's Alternative Budget Group.

Among other things, the Alternative budget group recommended funneling McGill's $500 million endowment fund into university operations

February

The SSMU's main agitator, Mario "point of order" Nigro, spent the month calling various council priorities into question. *The Daily* reported that Nigro filed an appeal with SSMU's judicial board regarding the legitimacy of the Student's Health Plan.

Nigro claimed that the Health Plan had not received approval of the Financial Ethics Research Committee or Council as a whole.

Nigro's bitter rival, Duncan Reid, was quoted in *the Daily* as saying "last year's VP Finance Jon Chomsky had planned to bring this before the last meeting of last year's council, but quorum wasn't reached ."

Student Activists take over Montréal

February 11 saw a day of action in Montréal with over a hundred protesters occupying the offices of the Conseil du Patronat, a business lobby group in Québec. Among the issues the demonstrators emphasised was the fact that they were against acronyms such as NAFTA, APEC and MAI. However, they did say they were from the CFS, which was also an acronym. Maybe it was just certain initals that they didn't like.

March

Students elected new Executive

This year's SSMU's featured, among other things, a low voter turnout and a Red Herring Slate of candidates. None of the candidates really made themselves stand out from the pack. Duncan Reid, whose platform included extending the benefits of the SSMU health plan to include dental implants. Reid proclaimed that his election was the beginning of a new regime for the SSMU. "I have the experience to bring the SSMU forward."

That election also saw the approval of an organic food store.

Protesters gather in Ottawa to end the seal hunt

Canadian Against the Commercial Seal Hunt organised the protest, which attracted thousands to Ottawa. *The Daily* reported that the rally was a success with a huge range of people attending the event. It was deemed to be the largest animal rights protest in Canadian History.

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The Daily Publications Society requires nominees for the 1998-99 Board of Directors

As a board member, you will plan policy and strategy, direct finances and deal with related issues for the McGill Daily.
These positions are an excellent way to develop job skills including problem solving, supervising staff and managing finances and are good experience for those interested media, journalism and/or stategic planning.
Applications can be picked up in the McGill Daily Business Office, Room B07, Shatner Building.
Applications are due Wed. April 8th, 5pm. For further information contact Suzanne Williams, Chief Returning Officer at 398-6790 or 398-6784.

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THE DAILY SINGH

The McGill Daily and QPIRG require a Chief Returning Officer for 1998-99

The Chief returning Officer is responsible for organizing elections of the board for both QPIRG and the McGill Daily. This is a paid position.
To apply, please submit a resumé with cover letter to Room B07, Shatner Building. (Cover letter must note your degree, year, full name, address and phone number as well as reasons for applying for position.)
Applications are due Wed. April 8, 5 pm.
For additional information, please contact Suzanne Williams CRO at 398-6790 or 398-6784.

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): $4.65 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, $4.10 per day. General Public: $5.90 per day, or $4.95 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over $20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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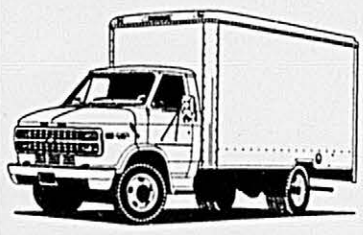
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Rib Steak Platter $5.99
Pigsknuckle Platter $4.99
Grilled Chicken Filet Club Sandwich $3.99
Tuna or Chef Salad $2.99

TUESDAY
Roast Beef "au jus" Platter $5.99
Souvlaki with Greek Salad $4.99
Chicken Fajitas Platter $3.99
Pizza $2.99

WEDNESDAY
Filet Mignon Brochette $5.99
Vegetarian or Chicken Stir Fry $4.99
Home Made Shepherd Pie $3.99
Pizzaghetti or Pizzacaesar $2.99

THURSDAY
Chicken Brochette Platter $5.99
Smoked Meat Sandwich Platter $4.99
Lasagna and Caesar Salad $3.99
Hamburger Steak Dinner $2.99

FRIDAY
Home Made Fish'n'Chips $5.99
Grilled Chicken Filet Platter $4.99
Beef Bourguignon $3.99
Rigatoni with Meat or Tomato Sauce $2.99

SATURDAY
Chicken & Ribs Platter $5.99
Peel Pub Steak Sub $4.99
Caesarghetti $3.99
Breakfast until 4:00 pm

SUNDAY
Half Chicken Dinner $5.99
British Club Burger $4.99
Calzone & Caesar Salad $3.99
Breakfast until 4:00 pm



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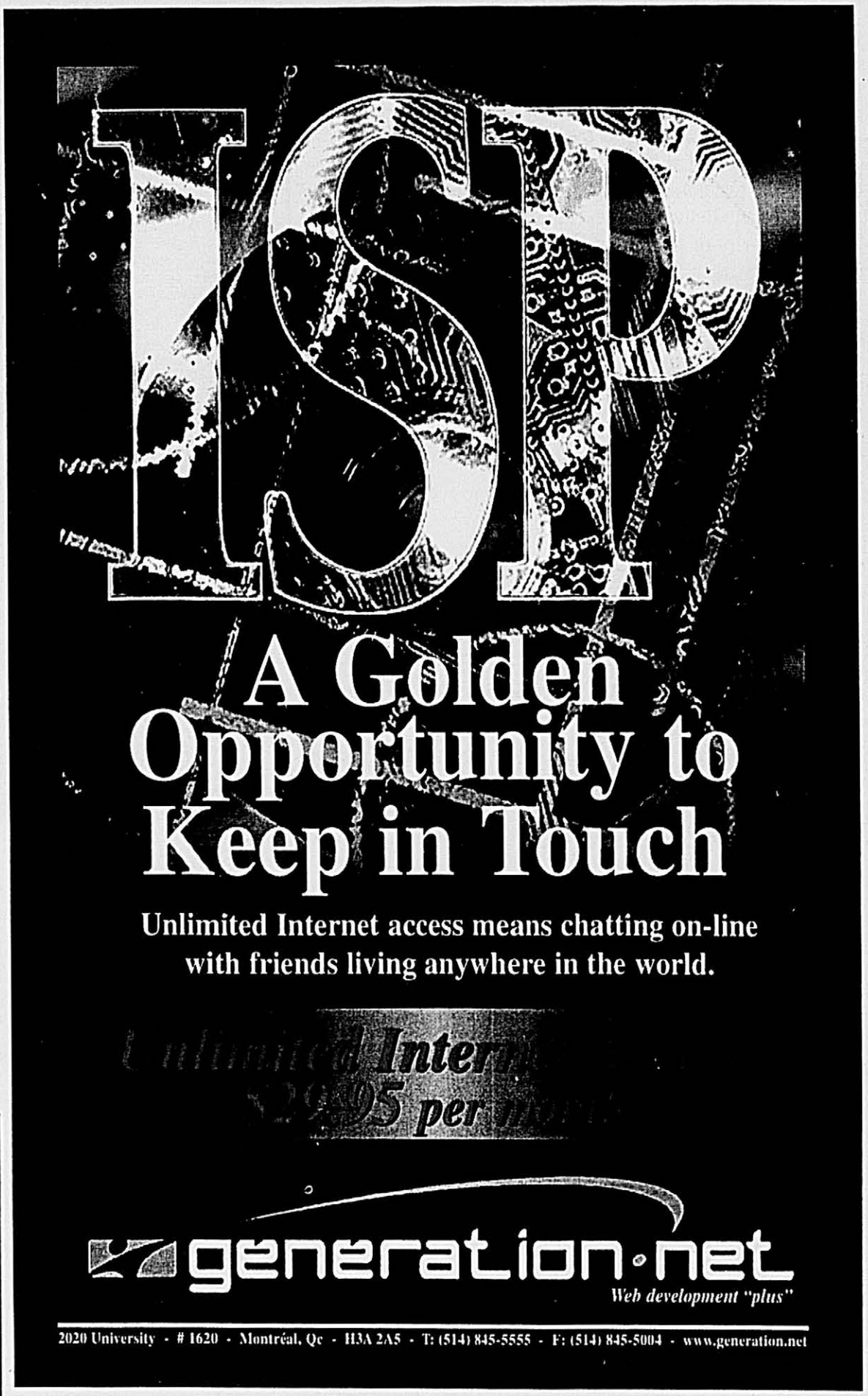
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